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Community Development Program for Caracol - EKAM Housing Project

Quarterly Report: April - June 2015





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FY 2015 Q3 PROGRESS REPORT
(APRIL 1, 2015 to JUNE 30, 2015)

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DISCLAIMER

The authors' views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

CAEPA	Comité d'Approvisionnement en Eau Potable et Assainissement
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CDP	Community Development Program
CIP	Caracol Industrial Park
CIAT	Comité Interministériel d'Aménagement du Territoire
CMC	Community Management Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CTB	Community Time Bank
DINEPA	Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement
ECAP	Emergency Capacity Assistance Program
EDH	Électricité d'Haïti
EPPLS	Entreprise Publique de Promotion de Logements Sociaux
FAES	Fonds d'Assistance Economique et Sociale
GOH	Government of Haiti
HFA	Host Family Assistance
HTG	Haitian Gourdes
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross
JMRF	Joint Maintenance and Repair Fund
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRECA	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association
PACE	Participatory Action for Community Enhancement
PMT	Program Management team
SMS	Short Message Service
STTA	Short Term Technical Assistance
TA	Technical Assistance
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	US Government

CDP Program: Executive Summary

Global Communities was awarded the Community Development Program (CDP) for Caracol, also known as the EKAM Housing Project, on August 7, 2013. This report covers the activities and achievements under CDP during the third quarter of fiscal year (FY) 2015 (April 1 to June 30, 2015).

Qualitative Summary

The USAID-funded Community Development Project (CDP) aimed to develop a sustainable social housing village where residents, stakeholders and partners had an equal sense of ownership. Previously, the program concentrated on the management of the social housing village daily life; residents attended WASH trainings to improve hygiene and sanitation, elected the Community Management Committee to oversee housing activities and developed land-use plans that would drive business and economic development in the village and surrounding areas. This quarter, CDP focused on resident capacity building and livelihood improvement.

The CMC, with the help of community mobilizers, facilitators and block captains, facilitated greater communication between the residents and the administration. The administration used this greater transparency and interaction to encourage residents to pay their bills and start their own initiatives. In addition to supporting the CDP housing project, Global Communities continued to aid the EPPLS, a government entity which manages social housing in Haiti, manage the village. This support took various forms, including motivating the residents to pay their bills, improving security, evicting residents and monitoring/evaluating the program.

Quantitative Summary

This quarter a number of trainings and activities took place, including:

- 6 trainings for residents.
- 35 residents finding a job.
- 20 septic tank emptied.
- 80 public lamps installed in the street.

An informal survey conducted this quarter found that:

- 33% of residents were satisfied with access to education.
- 46% of residents were satisfied with the services provided by EPPLS.
- 84 % of residents were very satisfied with the security.
- 43% of resident were satisfied with the available job opportunities.
- 62% were satisfied with the cultural activities.
- 29% of residents were satisfied with the transparency and management of rent by EPPLS.
- 46% of residents were satisfied with the water services.
- 87% of residents were very satisfied or satisfied with the waste removal.
- 94% of residents were very satisfied or satisfied with the electricity services.

Constraints and Opportunities

Global Communities and EPLLS continued to deal with issues that arose following the floods in November and December of 2014 in addition to the recent flooding in June 2015. USAID pre-selected 3 firms to evaluate the water drainage system and bid for a contract to improve the flood mitigation infrastructure. Residents with damaged house met together to find short-term solution such as spread gravel in the platform to avoid mud.

S&A Company, the Korean company that built the primary school, sent an official letter to EPPLS to request a plot of land to build a hospital. They also designed building plans for a secondary school and construction will begin in September.

Subsequent Quarter's Work Plan

In the subsequent quarter the CDP program intends to offer multiple technical trainings for residents. Depending on the target group, these trainings will offer technical, management or livelihood skills to build the capacity of the social housing village at all levels. The program intends to offer:

- PACE trainings.
- Technical trainings for women.
- Social integration workshops for residents.
- EPPLS team and CMC team.

Other key activities for next quarter include:

- Supporting the CMC activities.
- Improving livelihood opportunities.
- Fostering public and private partnership.
- Solving sewage and technical problems.

Beneficiary Training, Selection and Move-In

The beneficiaries finished moving in February 2014. The 63 houses reserved for the students of King Christophe's University have been occupied since November 2014. CDP outfitted the houses with gas stoves, thus the students and other beneficiaries attended a training on the use of those stoves.

Governance and Community Relations

Bill Payments

The community mobilizers continued sensitizing the residents to the concept of paid services. This process aimed to avoid eviction and disconnection of water services by emphasizing the importance of timely rent and water payments. Additionally, the program highlighted the services available when residents paid their bills; these included waste removal, security and public space maintenance.

In the previous quarter, block captains helped address the low-rate of payment by helping with collection. One block captain per platform was in charge of collecting the water payments from the residents on their platform. As an incentive, the block captains received 10% of the payments they successfully collected.

As a result of the campaign, the rate of payment increased by 10% in one month and many residents who were 6 months late settled bills for several months. In April, 12% of residents paid their water bills on time and in-full, in May 23%, and June 22%. In summary, this quarter 19% of residents paid their water bills on time and in full. In comparison, on the previous quarter the average was 29%. Although the rate of water payments decreased, the rent payments remained stable.

Community Meetings

In April, many residents participated in a general assembly. The objective of the assembly was to inform the residents about the activities achieved and the upcoming events.

Among the activities achieved we can highlight:

- installation of 80 lights in the street

- end of the construction of the market place.
- call for bids for a drugstore, water store, restaurant, bakery and a small shop.

Social integration training began in January for the platform committees and interested residents. Approximately 9 platforms, 100 residents, attended the two hour training this quarter. The sessions focused on social integration and the vision for the village after the departure of Global Communities. The facilitators emphasized the importance of organizing and identifying their resources and strengths to independently manage the village. The workshop also allowed the participants to discuss, share their point of view, and learn about each other.

Community Management Committee (CMC) Meetings

The Community Management Committee (CMC) members were elected by the community to represent the village residents. It is comprised of representatives from 5 blocks and 6 commissions. The CMC executes its activities mainly through the 6 different commissions, the Health/Environment, Water, Security, Gender, Education and Sports and Hobbies Commissions. During this quarter, the different commissions organized events, arranged bill collection and moderated conflicts.

In addition to the village activities, the CMC worked on the status of the organization. They drafted a document of 42 articles to govern the main principles of the organization. Currently, the articles are under review to be finalized.

The CMC also worked with different departments of Global Communities, such as the livelihoods department, and met with the Global Communities Board to discuss the micro center market place, which was recently constructed for the residents and surrounding community.

Operational Support for the EPPLS Site Team

EPPLS Trainings

Global Communities supported and collaborated with EPPLS from the beginning of the program. EPPLS communicated with CMC members, mobilized teams for rent and bill collection, supported initiatives and participated in every meeting, event and decision-making process. Global Communities and EPPLS also jointly updated the data on the number of occupied houses, payment status and percentage of on-time payments.

Towards the end of this quarter, the EPPLS central office sent 11 trainees from the Cap Haitian community to work with EPPLS for 3 months. EPPLS and Global Communities staff created a schedule for the three to months to ensure that the trainees work and are exposed to the different offices (administration, mobilization, finance, and M&E).

In conjunction with EPPLS, two USAID-hired consultants assessed the potential of bringing investors into the village and supported the PPP officers to organize workshops with potential investors in the village and Port-au-Prince. The PPP officers presented their findings and designed the templates required to obtain authorization to develop businesses.

Conflicts and Issues

Mobilizers quickly resolved two issues between neighbors and no one was injured.

Site Management and Services

Grants for Services and Infrastructure

Services and infrastructure received no specific grant this quarter; however, continued implementing directly from all the 6 commissions and the CMC.

Rent Payment and Eviction

Thanks to the mobilizers, block captains and facilitators the rate of the rent payment reached 22% for April, 18% for May and 21% for June and only one eviction notice was issued.

Water and Sanitation Related Services

The EPPLS home office sent a team of two engineers to work on the water issues. They replaced defective pipes and looked into solutions for the defectives toilets and flooded septic tanks.

Public Spaces

Last month, the EPPLS home office bought a truck for the village to collect and remove trash. Every month, the EPPLS will hire 15 different residents to remove the trash and clean the public spaces. A survey allowed determined that each septic tank needed to be emptied three times a week to avoid flooding.

On Agriculture and Labor Day, the Environment Commission organized a tree planting campaign and many trees were planted in public spaces. Additionally, each platform received ornamental and fruit trees for residents to plant in their private residences. Each platform managed the planting differently, but had to plant the trees and maintain a certain level of cleanliness.

Septic Tank Maintenance

28 platforms emptied their septic tanks this quarter; however, this is a major challenge during the rainy season. The septic tanks filled quickly with rain rather than sewage, and needed to be emptied promptly to avoid flooding. EPPLS recommended that GOLSA empty all of the septic tanks prior to the rainy season.

Village Events

This quarter the Sports and Hobbies Commission and Gender Commission organized Flag Day activities. Women from all 5 women associations sold their handmade products, the children from Club of the Children of Village la Différence (CLEVID) formed a group of majorette and paraded in the village. Moreover schools from 5 different municipalities sent a delegations of children to join in the village parade. Additionally, children from S&H School participated in a song contest where they had to sing the national anthem both in French and in Creole.



Flag Day – students parade through the village



A stand manned by the Partners of the Americas.

Partners of the Americas, an implementing partner, joined in the Flag Day celebrations by organizing an exhibition of healthy products for a balanced diet. They also promoted the moringa, a tree with a lot of nutritious attributes.

The Health Commission provided a first aid stand; however, no incidents occurred. The Security Commission, as always, ensured the security.

Environment Commission

On Labor and Agricultural Day the Environment Commission gathered more than 90 volunteers to plant trees in public spaces. About 10,000 trees grown in the village tree nursery were planted and distributed to each platform. The volunteers, as well as the staff, were enthusiastic about the project.

On Environment Day the commission planned a cleaning campaign in the village. Early in the morning, the residents swept all the streets of the village equipped with brooms, masks and hats.



May 2, 2015 – Volunteers plant trees in the central village park.

Health Commission

The Health Commission used Mothers' Day to raise awareness of family planning and contraception. Approximately 30 women participated in sessions that discussed the concept of family planning, who it concerns, contraception methods and when/how to use them. After the conference, 5 participants received gifts for their exemplary mothering skills. Before returning to their home they shared cake and a convivial moment to build the women's networks.



May 18, 2015 – Family Planning Event

Social and Economic Capacity Building

Livelihood

After months of negotiation, Global Communities finalized a partnership with DFS Construction and Local Enterprise and Value Chain Enhancement (LEVE), a USAID funded project. Together, the partners offered 20 residents a one month training to be employed on the Fort Liberte Jail construction crew. Some trainees had foundational skills and experience, which allowed them to be quickly promoted into various departments. After the month, the other trainees were evaluated according to the American building standards and offered a contract to work as employees. DFS Construction was so pleased with the 20 trainees that the manager has asked for 30 more trainees to complete the program. CDP is also working with INDEPCO and LEVE to offer a 4 month construction training for 50 women.



Trainees on the work site



Graduation day

Women Associations Activities

After the success of the Women International Day, the women decided to participate in other festivals in the village and surrounding municipalities. Delegations met with municipal officials to request space during their events to sell their handmade products. The women already participated in another village celebration, Flag Day, and did a better job organizing themselves to buy the raw materials, make the products and sell them.

Civil Protection Trainings

Security Commission volunteers offered to train residents in civil preparedness and protection to increase preparedness for flash floods or gas stove fires. Over the course of 3 days, trainees learned about first aid, civil protection and fire extinguishment. The 30 trainees proved their dedication by attending and participating in theoretical sessions as well as practical exercises and everyone received a certificate on the last day.

Challenges

Global Communities and EPLLS continued to deal with issues that arose following the floods in May 2015. USAID selected 4 companies to propose long term solutions for sewage, drainage, water pipe and house defects. Next month, the team will select the winning proposal and firm next month and work will begin soon.

Activities planned for next quarter:

- Organize CMC election.
- Analyze the proposals for the seven commercial spaces and select the winning bid.
- Host PACE trainings.
- Solve sewage and technical problems.
- Offer women technical trainings.
- Foster public and private partnerships.
- Improve livelihood opportunities.
- Open the market with the commercial spaces.